

NOVEMBER 2015

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Peirs Anderson

Peirs Anderson is the newest addition to the Circulation desk. Peirs, a book and theater lover, is excited to make the Huntsville Public Library his home away from home.

Born and raised in Huntsville, minus three long years away in his early childhood, Peirs is a 2007 graduate of Huntsville High School. He attended Sam Houston State University for four years, majoring in History and minoring in Theatre. He is hoping with his new job at HPL, he can finally get back to college and finish his degree.

"I have always loved books and theater," Peirs said. "I remember the old library with the story corner. The library and its books have always been wonder-

ful, especially walking down the aisles of books."

Peirs said he like to pretend he is an artist in his spare time. He is also self-teaching himself to build and program computers.

"More often than not it is reading a book that keeps me up late at night," Peirs said.

He also likes to fancy himself a gamer—his favorite at the moment being Fantasy Star Online.

"By far this is the best job I've ever had," Peirs said, adding he worked at the Huntsville Cinema for several years. "This is a new level of wonderful!"

Peirs said the staff and patrons make the job awesome.



"You don't just come to the library, you have to want to."

Peirs also has future plans of traveling to California, Boston and Japan.

"I have been to Japan before and look forward to a food tour in the future."

### HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1219 13th Street  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
936-291-5472

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Monday through Friday  
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday  
Noon to 4 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

## TEEN SOCIAL HOUR

### New Book Alert!

In the *Teen Department* we have a variety of new books on display. One of the books is *The Winner's Curse* by Marie Rutkoski. This book is a YA fantasy book about a general's daughter who wants to make her own choices on whether or not to get married or join the army. Seventeen-year-old



Kestrel enjoys an extravagant and privileged life. Arin has nothing but the clothes on his back. Then Kestrel makes an impulsive decision that binds Arin to her. Though they try to fight it, they can't

help but fall in love. In order to be together, they must betray their people . . . but to be loyal to their country, they must betray each other.

See **TEENS** on page 2



## The Power of Perusal

By Richard Lane,  
Public Services

Perusal is a funny sounding word rhyming with refusal and refusal. Perusal, however, has nothing to do with obstinacy or legal proceedings.

Perusal is a self-contradicting word. The origin of the word is late 15<sup>th</sup> century and is believed to have been incorporated into the English language from the Anglo-Norman French word *peruser* meaning to thoroughly examine “something”. Meriam-Webster tells us that *perusal* has two meanings. The first meaning refers to a thorough examination of a thing. Rightly or wrongly, the common American usage of *perusal* is as a noun referring to the act of examining “something” in a casual or passing manner. Yes, there’s a real contradiction.

Regardless of the level of discipline applied to examining “something”, *perusal* is a useful skill for the family historian. One family historian recounts a story, one of many, no doubt. A great-great grandfather was born in New England in 1799 and somehow finds his way to Chattahoo-

chee County, Georgia as verified by the 1850 and 1860 census. Two questions went unanswered. What prompted him to move more than a thousand miles to Georgia and what was the maiden name of his wife? The researcher has spent numerous hours on-line searching for clues, without success.

Our floundering researcher found himself in the stacks of a genealogy collection and by accident stumbles upon the area related to the State of Georgia. One title catches his attention. Right in front of his nose was *History of Chattahoochee County, Georgia* by Norma Kate Rogers. A quick review of the book’s index referred our hapless genealogist to

pages 380 and 381. There he discovered that the misplaced great-great grandfather was born in Vermont and had served in a yet to be identified war. As a result of his military service he received “two draws” of Georgia land in 1827 following the ouster of the Creek people from their homelands. The brief article tells more information about the family including the wife’s maiden name, the name of their children and an anecdote. The anecdote reads, “He was a mechanical genius and was said to have spent a fortune just to show that he could run the complicated machinery of his mill with a wheel no larger than his hat.”

What a find. New evidence was found that completed more of the family’s story. New evidence also provided the springboard for further research one generation back. The anecdote has a certain charm and may be used someday when our hapless genealogist finds the time and will to write a family narrative. It all came about as a result of spending a few moments perusing a genealogy collection.



### More from TEENS, pg 1

Set in a new world, *The Winner's Curse* is a story of rebellion, duels, ballroom dances, wicked ru-

mors, dirty secrets, and games where everything is at stake, and the gamble is whether you will keep your head or lose your heart. The fantasy is not over; this book

has a sequel titled *The Winner's Crime*.

You can check out both of these books in the YA section on the New Book display shelf.



Whether you have been attending the Essential Oils (EOS) classes these past few weeks, or have just heard about them, then you'll be excited to learn about the special holiday event being held on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Library's Community Room.

Melissa Gonzalez, EOS instructor, will demonstrate several "recipes" for attendees who will then be able to create their individual essential oil beauty product, natural health remedy, or cleaning product. Essential Oils have long been used for food preparation, beauty treatment, and health-care practices. Refreshments will be served and everyone who attends will have an opportunity to win a grand door prize.

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## ADULT PROGRAMS

Are you looking for a convenient way to try yoga for the first time? Try attending our free Adult Yoga Program for Beginners at the Huntsville Public Library each Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. It's the perfect opportunity to learn and practice yoga techniques with other enthusiasts. All we ask is for you to bring your own mat or towel. The program will take place in the Library's Community Room on Thursday, December 3, 10, and 17 and will continue after the holidays on January 7, 14, and 21. Please consult your doctor before starting any new exercise program

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A *Christmas Holiday Concert* will be presented by the Huntsville Public Library on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. Local musician Jan Cole will be performing on the keyboard and says she welcomes requests of holiday favorites. Whether you prefer to sing along or just sit back and listen, come prepared to enjoy yourself. Refreshments will be served. Registration is not required for this free program. For more information, call Mary Kokot (936) 291-5471 or visit our website at

[www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com](http://www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com)

- Mary Kokot,  
Adult Reference



## New Xbox One Experience

The New Xbox One Experience update rolled out November 12, 2015.

Microsoft has revamped the look of the Xbox One, as well as added Windows 10 to the gaming console. This update also adds

Backward Compatibility which will allow gamers to play their Xbox 360 games on Xbox One. This is great because gamers will be able to play the games they already own without having to hook up another game console to the TV.

The Xbox 360 games will be able to take advantage of the new features on Xbox One such as Game DVR and Screenshots, Party Chat, and multiplayer.

The big caveat to Backwards Compatibility is that there are only 104 titles that will be



Backwards Compatible in November.

The list of those games can be found by doing a simple search for 'Xbox One Backwards Compatibility available titles'.

The small number of games is because Microsoft has to individually contact the game publishers for permission to get their games

available. The good news is that Microsoft will be adding to the list of available titles every month.

Are you a gamer? What are your thoughts on being able to play last gen games on a new gen system? Let us know on Facebook or Twitter!

—Drew Nevlud, IT



## Holidays Around the World

Looking for a way to enrich your community or teach other about your culture? Huntsville Public Library is seeking volunteers for its annual Holidays around the World event which teaches how various cultures and countries celebrate holidays in December. This year's event will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Each country represented at the event will have its own booth where visitors can learn about traditions, sample a snack, and make a craft representative of a Holiday.

Shelby Armour who worked the event last year as one of Santa's elves remembers her time at Holidays. "I really liked getting to see the kids' excitement about seeing Santa Claus and seeing their faces light up when they got their pictures taken with him," Shelby says.

There are still a few country booths available so if you would like to volunteer, please contact Children's Coordinator Rachel McPhail at 936-291-5910.



Check out the exciting  
Children's Programs at  
the Huntsville Public  
Library!

dates  
to  
Remember

- ☐ Mother Goose Lapsits, 10:30 Mondays
- ☐ Storytime, 10:45 on Wednesdays AND Fridays
- ☐ Family Movie Night, 5:30, 2nd Friday of the Month
- ☐ Wii Friday, 4:00-6:00 except on Family Movie Night
- ☐ Lego Club, 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 5:00
- ☐ Read with the Dogs, 3rd Monday of the month, 4:00

### Winter Break Activities:

December 21, 22, 23 Winter Crafts, 3:00 p.m.

December 28, 30 Movie Afternoons, 3:00 p.m.

December 29 Wii Tournament, 3:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Childrens' Coordinator Rachel McPhail, at 936-291-5910.

## There's something new at the HPL; its name is Mother Goose Lapsit

You might be wondering, "What is Mother Goose Lapsit?" Lapsits are library programs designed for infants aged birth to 24 months. Parents and babies can enjoy simple songs, baby books, and rhymes.

HPL's Mother Goose Lapsit is different than the usual Children's Story Time, though you are certainly invited to attend both with your child. Lapsit features shorter activities better suited to an infant's attention span and instead of the Story Time craft, Lapsit concludes with the infants playing with age-appropriate toys.

So, what is Lapsit? It's a time to cuddle, play, read, and sing to your child. It's a time to meet other mom's and dad's and socialize. Simply put, Mother Goose Lapsit is fun!

For more information, please contact Childrens' Coordinator Rachel McPhail, at 936-291-5910.